

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of rating database objects, comprising:
 - categorizing the objects into a plurality of categories;
 - rating at least one of said categories based on user preferences;
 - arranging the categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level; and
 - computing a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.
2. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.
3. (Previously Presented) A method as defined as defined in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises a step of visually representing a rating by means of a color.
4. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said parameter is the saturation of said color.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the objects are programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level are genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for processing database objects, said objects being categorized into a plurality of categories, the apparatus comprising:

user profile means for rating at least one of said categories based on user preferences, wherein

the user profile means are further adapted to:

arrange said categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and

compute a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile means are adapted to visually represent a rating by means of a color.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 9, wherein a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said parameter is the saturation of said color.

12. (Previously Presented) A broadcast receiver as an apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said objects being programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level being genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer program product for performing, when executed on a programmable computing device, the steps of the method as defined in claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

- a central processing unit (CPU) adapted to process a plurality of database objects, wherein the objects are categorized into a plurality of categories;

- a user profile module adapted to rate at least one of the plurality of categories based on user preferences, wherein

- the user profile module is adapted to:

- arrange the plurality of categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and

- compute a rating of each of the plurality of categories of the first level as a function of ratings of plurality of categories of the respective second level.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein the rating of the first level of categories is an average of the ratings of respective plurality of categories of the second level.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile module is adapted to visually represent the ratings by colors.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the first and the second levels of categories are displayed on the display screen.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein the display screen is adapted to display a connection indicator, which connects a category of one of the first level of categories to one of the second level of categories.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 14, further comprising memory adapted to store user profile information.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as recited in claim 16, further comprising an electronic program guide (EPG) module adapted to display programs on a screen, wherein the ratings of the plurality of second categories are included in the displayed programs.